CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	☐ Force	☐ Discourt.	☐ U.S.
Judith Le		Squad #8	201608992	✓ Abuse	O.L.	☐ Injury
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:	•	Precinct:	18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Tuesday, 10/18/2016 1:40 PM		§ 87(2)(b)		40	4/18/2018	4/18/2018
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	: Date/Tir	ne Received at CC	RB
Tue, 10/18/2016 3:00 PM		IAB	Phone	Wed, 10	/26/2016 11:16 AI	M
Complainant/Victim	Туре	Home Addre	ess			_
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command			
1. POM Nicholas Rios	06583	955377	PSA 7			
2. POM Matthew Mozdziak	13837	943590	PSA 7			
3. POM Juan Candelario	06688	948739	PSA 7			
4. SGT Michael Bletcher	3912	929740	PSA 7			
Officer(s)	Allegati	on		In	vestigator Recor	nmendation
A.SGT Michael Bletcher	Abuse: S	Sergeant Michael Bletch	er stopped § 87(2)(b)			
B.POM Nicholas Rios	Abuse: I	Police Officer Nicholas l	Rios frisked ^{§ 87(2)(b)}			
C.POM Juan Candelario	Abuse: I	Abuse: Police Officer Juan Candelario frisked § 87(2)(b)				
D.POM Juan Candelario	Abuse: I	Abuse: Police Officer Juan Candelario searched \$87(2)(b)				
E.POM Nicholas Rios	Abuse: Police Officer Nicholas Rios frisked § 87(2)(b) s property.					
F.POM Nicholas Rios	Abuse: Police Officer Nicholas Rios searched § 87(2)(b) property.					
G.SGT Michael Bletcher	Abuse: Sergeant Michael Bletcher refused to provide his shield number to § 37(2)(b)					
H.POM Nicholas Rios	Abuse: Police Officer Nicholas Rios refused to provide his shield number to \$87(2)(b)					
I.POM Juan Candelario	Abuse: Police Officer Juan Candelario refused to provide his shield number to §87(2)(b)					
J.POM Matthew Mozdziak	Abuse: Police Officer Matthew Mozdziak refused to provide his shield number to §87(2)(b)					
§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)						

Case Summary On October 18, 2016 at 1:40 p.m, § 87(2)(b) was waiting to enter his residence at in the Bronx, when he was approached by Sgt. Michael Bletcher, PO Nicholas Rios, PO Matthew Mozdziak and PO Juan Candelario of PSA 5. Sgt. Bletcher, whose from a web series called § 87(2)(b) partially factored into the recognition of § 87(2)(b) stop, informed § 87(2)(b) he was being stopped for blocking the doorway (Allegation A). Shortly thereafter, PO Rios frisked \$87(2)(6) (Allegation B). $\S 87(2)(b)$ was instructed to remove his backpack, which was given to PO Rios. PO Candelario then began to frisk (Allegation C) and search through his pockets, pulling out his wallet and ID (Allegation D). During this time, PO Rios frisked and then searched through \$87(2)(5) backpack (Allegations E and F). §87(2)(b) ID showed that he lived in the building so the officers let him go. § 87(2)(b) then asked the officers for their shield numbers; they refused (Allegations G, H, \overline{I} and \overline{J}). The investigation consulted with an attorney regarding the stop, frisk and search. Video footage was obtained on October 18, 2016 from the New York City Housing Authority, , Camera 1: exterior entrance. The video is time

This case surpassed the 90-day benchmark in January 2017 due to the following reasons: 1) PO Rios was out on LOD; and 2) the undersigned had difficulty scheduling [887(2)(5)] for his photo array.

stamped and runs five minutes. There is no sound accompanying the video (see Board Review

Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories

\$87(2)(b) declined mediation \$87(2)(b)
 \$87(2)(b)
 As of March 7, 2017, a notice of claim had not been filed by \$87(2)(b) (see Board Review #3).

Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

• Sgt. Bletcher has been a Member of Service for fourteen years. He currently has one additional case, case #201609410, pending investigation. He been a subject in two other complaints, totaling three allegations. §87(4-b).§87(2)(g)

• PO Rios has been a Member of Service for three years and been a subject in two other complaints, totaling nine allegations. In case #201507072 an allegation of abuse – frisk was closed with a Board Disposition of Command Discipline B. The NYPD disposition is still pending (see Board Review #5).

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CCRB Case # 201608992

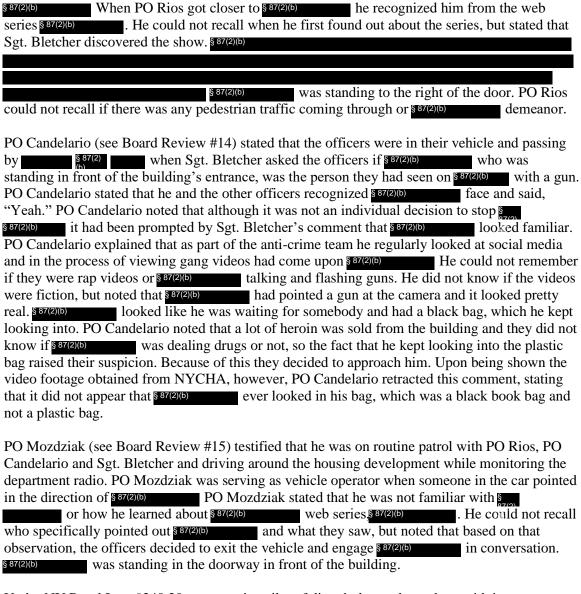
#1).

•	PO Candelario has been a Member of Service for six years. He currently has one additional case, case #201609410, pending investigation. PO Candelario has also been a subject in one prior case, totaling six allegations. In case #201603587, an allegation of abuse —other was closed with a Board Disposition of Formalized Training; an allegation of abuse — frisk was closed with a Board Disposition of Formalized Training; §87(4-b). §87(2)(g)
•	The NYPD disposition is still pending (see Board Review #6). PO Mozdziak has been a Member of Service for ten years and been a subject in five other complaints, totaling ten allegations. §87(4-b). §87(2)(9)
•	In case #201212779 an allegation of abuse – stop was substantiated and received a NYPD disposition of not guilty with no penalty. In case #201304798 an allegation of abuse – retaliatory summons was closed and received a NYPD disposition of Guilty with a penalty of Forfeit vacation 2 days (see Board Review #7). This is \$87(2)(b) first CCRB complaint. \$87(2)(b)
tou (se § 87(2	Allegations Not Pleaded deo footage (see Board Review #1) obtained from NYCHA shows that PO Mozdziak did not such, frisk or search (10) during the stop. Although (10) originally testified the Board Review #9) that PO Mozdziak frisked and searched him, upon review of the video, (see Board #10) identified the officers that frisked and searched him as PO Rios did PO Candelario. While he believed that PO Mozdziak might have frisked him, he stated that could not be certain as he had become angry that he was being searched.
It is	Findings and Recommendations Legation A - Abuse: Sergeant Michael Bletcher stopped \$87(2)(5) So undisputed that \$87(2)(5) was standing in front of his residence, en he was approached by Sgt. Bletcher, PO Rios, PO Mozdziak and PO Candelario. In dispute the events that transpired thereafter.
§ 87(2	deo footage was obtained on October 18, 2016 from the New York City Housing Authority, Security footage provided begins at the 12:59 PM mark. \$87(2)(b) does not bear on video until the 1:38 PM mark, at which time he enters the \$87(2)(b) walkway.
	Snaglt Video.mp4
wa pho	the SnagIt (see Board Review #1), beginning at 1:38 PM, at $<00:01>$ 887(2)(b) enters the lkway to 887(2)(b). At $<00:10>$ he stops next to the entrance door and takes out his one. He appears to be looking at the screen. At $<00:21>$ a white/beige 4-door sedan enters the een on the far right. At $<00:33>$ the car backs up and at $<00:42>$ disappears off the screen. At

<01:06> two men, identified as PO Candelario and PO Rios enter the walkway from the street.

At <01:30> two additional men, identified through investigation as PO Mozdziak and Sgt. Bletcher walk up the sidewalk. At <01:53> the four men appear to surround \$37(2)(0) At <01:54> PO Rios appears to frisk \$37(2)(0) who has his arms extended. At <01:57> PO Rios is seen reaching around his pockets. At <02:06> PO Rios takes \$37(2)(0) bag and opens it. At <02:06> PO Rios steps to the right and puts the backpack on the ground. At <02:10> PO Candelario appears to frisk, and then appears to search \$37(2)(0) who is now turned around and facing the wall. PO Candelario is seen reaching to \$37(2)(0) right side near his hips. At <02:21> PO Rios puts \$37(2)(0) bag on the ground and opens it. He begins searching inside the backpack. At <02:41> the search of \$37(2)(0) is concluded and Sgt. Bletcher, PO Candelario and PO Mozdziak stand and surround him. They appear to be talking. PO Rios is still searching through his backpack. At <03:07> PO Rios zips up \$37(2)(0) backpack and at <03:19> stands and joins the other officers. He is still holding onto \$37(2)(0) backpack. \$37(2)(0) speaks to the officers. At <04:45> PO Mozdziak exits the entrance area. The officers follow him out back towards the street.
§ 87(2)(b)
(see Board Review #9) stated that on October 18, 2016, he had just gotten dropped off outside of his building and was waiting to be let in when he observed a tinted Chevy Impala, which he assumed to be a cop car, drive by. The car stopped at the corner and four plainclothes officers got out and approached the building. Their badges were flipped so as to hide any identifying information. An officer identified through investigation as Sgt. Bletcher, and later verified by \$87(2)(b) in a photo array (see Board Review #11), asked \$7(2)(b) if he lived at the building. \$7(2)(b) replied that he did live there. Sgt. Bletcher asked \$7(2)(b) why he was standing in front of the building and \$87(2)(b) explained that he was waiting out front. The officers told \$87(2)(b) that they'd been watching him wait outside the building for a couple minutes, which \$87(2)(b) asserted was untrue.

(see Board Review #9) noted that at the conclusion of the stop, once the officers realized that he didn't have anything on him, they got into a little argument. \$87(2)(b) told the officers that if they knew who he was they wouldn't be bothering him because he wasn't selling drugs or anything—he was in the entertainment business. Sgt. Bletcher replied that he knew \$87(2)(b) from \$87(2)(b) also later noted (see Board Review #10), that none of the other officers mentioned \$87(2)(b) and he felt that the stop had been motivated by Sgt. Bletcher. \$87(2)(b) explained to the officers that everything on the web series was scripted and they had lines that they were following. The officers then let him go and he called 911 to report them.
Sgt. Bletcher (see Board Review #12) was with PO Rios, PO Candelario and PO Mozdziak when they drove by PO Mozdziak was acting as the vehicle operator. Sgt. Bletcher was serving as the supervisor on scene. He noted that PO Mozdziak was acting as the vehicle operator. Sgt. Bletcher was serving as the supervisor on scene. He noted that PO Mozdziak was acting as the vehicle operator. Sgt. Bletcher was serving as the supervisor on scene. He noted that PO Mozdziak was acting as the vehicle operator. Sgt. Bletcher was serving as the supervisor on scene. He noted that was standing as the vehicle operator. Sgt. Bletcher was serving as the vehicle operator. Sgt. Bletcher door was fully open and PO Mozdziak was acting as the vehicle operator. Sgt. Bletcher door was fully open and PO Mozdziak was acting as the vehicle operator. Sgt. Bletcher was serving as the vehicle operator. Bletcher was serving as the vehicle operato
The officers exited the vehicle to investigate why \$87(2)(b) was standing in front of the door. As they approached \$87(2)(b) Sgt. Bletcher realized that he had seen \$87(2)(b) on \$87(2)(b) He believed he was the only officer who recognized him and told the officers about what he had seen. Sgt. Bletcher stated that he first became aware of \$87(2)(b) YouTube presence while viewing videos showing guns, drugs and violence. He added that several days prior he had come across \$87(2)(b) who Sgt. Bletcher believed was a gang member due to use of gang handshakes and gestures, brandished a firearm. \$87(2)(b)
Sgt. Bletcher stated that one of his jobs was to investigate if
these guns were real or not.
PO Rios (see Board Review #13) stated that he, PO Mozdziak, PO Candelario and Sgt. Bletcher were on anti-crime patrol and passing \$87(2)(b) when Sgt. Bletcher informed the officers that \$87(2)(b) blocking the doorway from pedestrian traffic. PO Rios could not see \$87(2)(b) from where he was sitting, but noted that blocking pedestrian traffic was a summons-able offense. The officers exited the vehicle and approached Page 5

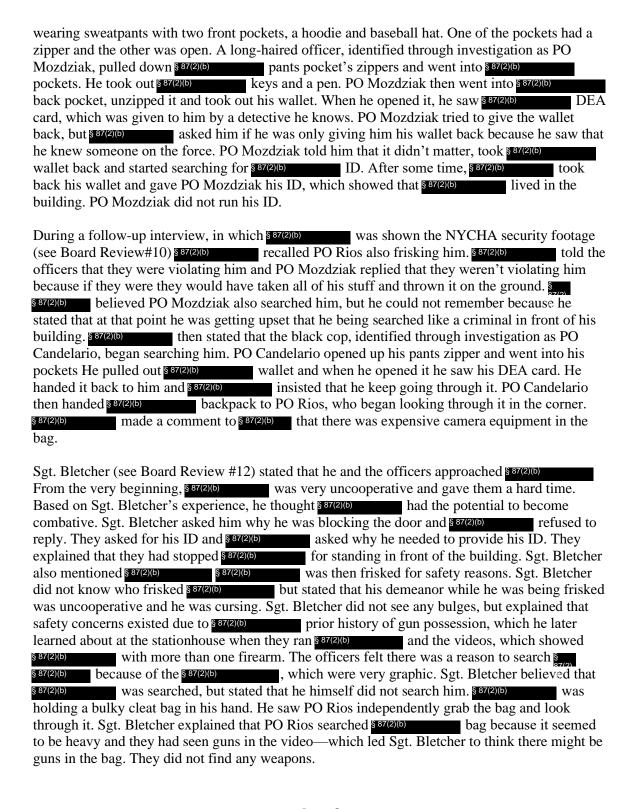


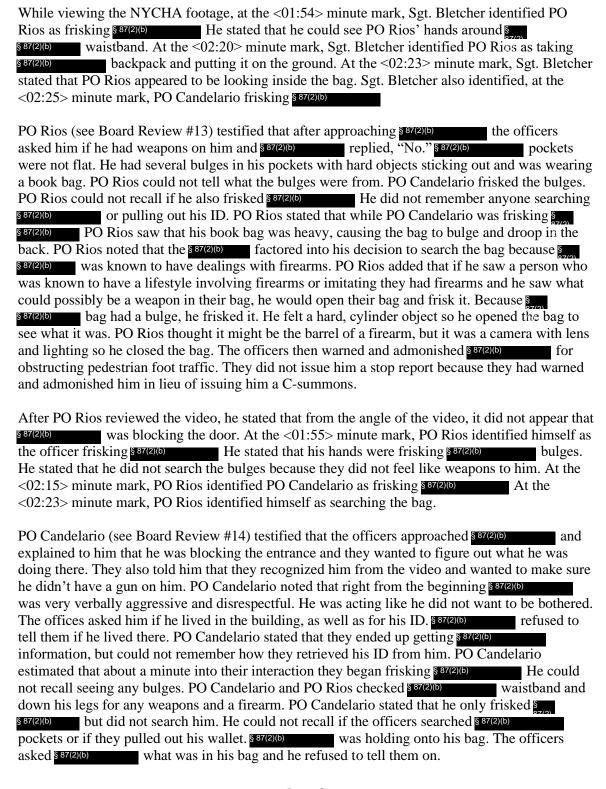
Under NY Penal Law §240.20, a person is guilty of disorderly conduct when, with intent to cause public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm, or recklessly creating a risk thereof: he obstructs vehicular or pedestrian traffic (see Board Review #16).

Under P.G. 212-11 a terry stop/level 3 encounter is any encounter between a civilian and a uniformed member of the service in which a reasonable person would not feel free to disregard the officer and walk away. A stop may be conducted only when a police officer has an individualized reasonable suspicion that the person stopped has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a felony or Penal Law misdemeanor (see Board Review #17). In *People v. Thomas*, 979 N.Y.S.2d 34, 35 (2014) the court held that an officers' knowledge of an offender's prior crimes in the area—where the, "Police sergeant only knew defendant by face, and the

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officer did not know defendant personally and had never arrested him" did not create the required reasonable suspicion to justify a level three intrusion (see Board Review #18).
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation B - Abuse: Police Officer Nicholas Rios frisked § 87(2)(b)
Allegation C - Abuse: Police Officer Juan Candelario frisked 887(2)(b) Allegation D - Abuse: Police Officer Juan Candelario searched 887(2)(b)
Allegation E - Abuse: Police Officer Nicholas Rios frisked property.
It is undisputed that after \$87(2)(b) was stopped, officers engaged in a frisk and search of
and his property. In dispute are the officers involved and the legality of the frisk and subsequent search.
(see Board Review #9) stated that Sgt. Bletcher instructed him to remove his book
bag, which he did. Sgt. Bletcher gave \$87(2)(b) bag to PO Rios, who began searching it. PO Rios opened the big pocket and saw \$87(2)(b) camera equipment. \$87(2)(b) was
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PO Candelario was shown the NYCHA video and identified himself as the officer frisking
at the <02:23> minute mark. He also identified PO Rios as the officer looking at
waistband at the <01:56> minute mark and searching through his backpack at the
<02:20> minute mark. Based on what PO Candelario saw from the video, \$87(2)(b)
behavior did not constitute reasonable suspicion. He clarified that the main thing that drew the
officers' attention was their recognition of §87(2)(b) from §87(2)(b). He stated that seeing
in the \$87(2)(b) with a gun was enough to constitute reasonable suspicion.
He also noted that \$87(2)(b) was standing in front of the building and not moving, which
raised suspicions—especially when it was a NYCHA building. He posited that \$87(2)(b)
could have been waiting for a hand-to-hand, or on the phone contacting whoever was going to
come by and buy the drugs.
DO Mozdziek (see Board Bayiew #15) stated that an officer asked \$27000
PO Mozdziak (see Board Review #15) stated that an officer asked \$87(2)(b) for his license
and he complied and produced it. PO Mozdziak stated that \$87(2)(b) was frisked for the
officers' safety. He stated that they thought \$87(2)(b) might have a weapon on him because of body language. PO Mozdziak also noted that it was a very gang prone location. He appeared
agitated throughout the course of their conversation and was raising his voice and screaming. He
could not recall if \$87(2)(b) had any bulges on his body. He could not recall what \$100.
was wearing, if he had any gang insignia on him or if he had any known affiliation
with a gang. He could not remember if he personally frisked him. PO Mozdziak reviewed the
NYCHA video footage. At the <01:54> minute mark, he identified PO Rios as frisking
At the <02:06> minute mark, he also identified PO Rios as the officer that took
backpack and moved it to the side. At the <02:21> minute mark, PO Mozdziak
identified PO Candelario as the officer frisking §87(2)(b)
P.G. 212-11 states that reasonable suspicion exists when the information known to the MOS
would make an ordinarily prudent cautious police officer under the circumstances believe that
criminal activity is at hand. The officer must have a particularized and objective basis for

P.G. 212-11 states that reasonable suspicion exists when the information known to the MOS would make an ordinarily prudent cautious police officer under the circumstances believe that criminal activity is at hand. The officer must have a particularized and objective basis for suspecting the person stopped of the criminal conduct. A frisk is authorized when the member of service reasonably suspects the person is armed and dangerous. This includes situations in which the officer reasonably suspects that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a violent crime or when the officer observes something on the person that she/he reasonably suspects is a weapon. Mere presence in a "high crime area" is an insufficient basis for a stop and frisk. In the context of investigative encounters, a search occurs when the officer places his/her hands inside a pocket or other interior portions of a person's clothing or personal property to remove an object that the member felt during a frisk and reasonably suspects is a weapon or dangerous instrument (see Board Review #17).

In *People v. Thomas*, 979 N.Y.S.2d 34, 35 (2014) the court held that an officers' knowledge of an offender's prior crimes in the area—where the, "Police sergeant only knew defendant by face, and the officer did not know defendant personally and had never arrested him . . ." did not create the required reasonable suspicion to justify a level three intrusion (see Board Review #18).

§ 87(2)(g)		

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§ 87(2)(g)	1
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§ 87(2)(g)	1
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The NYCHA video footage also depicts PO Candelario frisking and then searching Indeed, during his interview, PO Candelario identified himself as the officer frisking at the <02:23> minute mark. Although he originally stated that \$37(2)(5)	,
at the <02:23> minute mark. Although he originally stated that \$87(2)(b) presence on \$87(2)(b) was enough to constitute reasonable suspicion, upon watching the video footage he conceded that \$87(2)(b) behavior did not constitute reasonable suspicion	
While PO Candelario admitted to checking \$87(2)(b) waistband and down his legs for any weapons, PO Candelario stated that he did not search him. In contrast, \$87(2)(b) testified that PO Candelario pulled the zipper on his pants pockets and pulled out his wallet \$87(2)	7

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§ 87(Z)(g)
P.G. 212-11(23) also states that a police officer cannot "frisk" a bag or item of personal property unless the officer has a reasonable suspicion that the person is armed and dangerous and the bag or item could contain a weapon and is within a person's reach (see Board Review #17). In <i>People v. Hampton</i> , 200 A.D.2d 466, 469 (1994), the Court in its discussion of a Defendant's Fourth Amendment rights also held that a, "plastic bag, noted to 'weighted down', could have contained any number of heavy articles and does not, by its nature, constitute a container indicative of contraband."
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation G - Abuse: Sergeant Michael Bletcher refused to provide his shield number to
§ 87(2)(b)
Allegation H - Abuse: Police Officer Nicholas Rios refused to provide his shield number to
§ 87(2)(b)
Allegation I - Abuse: Police Officer Matthew Mozdziak refused to provide his shield
number to § 87(2)(b)
Allegation J - Abuse: Police Officer Juan Candelario refused to provide his shield number
to § 87(2)(b)
IAB Original Log #2016-36966 (see Board Review #20) shows that on October 18, 2016 at 3:15
p.m., IAB contacted [887(2)(b)] who reported that while attempting to enter his residence, he
was approached by four unidentified plainclothes officers with their shields flipped around
backwards. §87(2)(b) stated that he asked the officers to provide their name/shield and it was
not provided. As such, he did not know any of the officer's names when he filed his complaint.

(see Board Review #9) testified that when he was first approached by the four officers, their badges were flipped so as to hide any identifying information. He also noted that once the officers finished searching him, he asked them why they were always messing with him and for their badge numbers. They did not give it to him.
Sgt. Bletcher (see Board Review #12) stated that \$87(2)(b) asked the officers for their badge numbers, but he believed that they verbally provided \$87(2)(b) with their badge numbers. Sgt. Bletcher could not recall how they obtained \$87(2)(b) ID, but noted that after they found out he lived there, in lieu of a summons they gave him a warning about not blocking the door.
PO Candelario (see Board Review #14) could not recall if \$87(2)(b) asked him for his badge number, but noted that his shield was out.
Under P.G. 203-09, officers must clearly state their rank, name and shield number to anyone who requests it (see Board Review #21).
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)

§ 87(4-b), § 87(2)(g)			
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Squad: 8			
Investigator:			
	Signature	Print	Date
Squad Leader:			
	Title/Signature	Print	Date
Reviewer:			
110 , 10 , 01 .	Title/Signature	Print	Date